



Colonial Update



Shrewsbury High School Newsletter

Jan 2005

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Later this month students will be involved in mid-year exams and assessments as the first semester comes to a conclusion. Mid- year exams are designed to assess student knowledge and skills as well as to hold students accountable for their learning. It is my expectation that students, teachers, and parents will work together to ensure that students are prepared and ready for the mid-year exams.

I would like to suggest that we all have responsibilities to ensure student success on the exams:

- **Student Responsibilities:** Students should ask teachers about the general content and intent of exams. For example, will the exam be an open book exam, essay exam, or other form of assessment? If a student does not understand a key concept, the student should ask the teacher for additional help. Students should prepare and study for each exam by reviewing appropriate course materials and texts. Studying and preparation should begin well in advance of the actual exam so that “cramming” is avoided. After the exams are corrected, students should ask teachers to review the exam and discuss what the general results mean to the individual student and the class.
- **Parent Responsibilities:** Parents should ask students what exams and assessments the student will be responsible for during the exam period. Parents should contact teachers with concerns or questions about a student’s performance or about the upcoming exams. Parents should ensure that the student has appropriate space, time, and focus to prepare and study for exams. After parents receive report cards, they are encouraged to contact teachers with questions about student performance.
- **Teacher Responsibilities:** Teachers should discuss with students the exam format and how the exams will be graded. Teachers should provide ample opportunity for students to ask questions about key concepts and understandings that will be assessed. Teachers should provide ideas about exam preparation and studying tips. After the exams are graded, teachers should discuss with their colleagues the general exam results and make plans for appropriate curriculum adjustments based on the exam results. Teachers should discuss specific concerns and ideas with individual students to aid the student in the new semester.
- **Administrative Responsibilities:** High school directors and administrators will work closely with teachers to ensure that department exams and assessments are challenging, appropriate, and meet stated learning goals. Directors and administrators will provide time for teachers to collaborate and discuss exam results in an effort to improve teaching and learning.

Please review the enclosed exam schedule for detailed information about exam times.

Finally, I encourage parents to attend the next Parent Forum scheduled for Thursday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Room to discuss the issue of teenagers and substance use and abuse. Join me, two of our school psychologists, and a small panel of recent grads who will discuss what is going on with teenage drinking, partying, and what parents need to know. Please note the date.

Happy New Year to you and your family! As always, please contact me with your comments, ideas, and suggestions at 841-8808 or dgutekanst@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gutekanst, Ed.D.

The Shrewsbury High School community provides challenging, diverse learning opportunities; promotes creativity and independent thinking; and empowers students to become capable, caring, active contributors to the world in which they live.

FROM THE PARENT FORUM COORDINATORS

We wish all in the SHS community a very Happy New Year. This is a great time of year to recommit your energies to helping out at your child's school. The Parent Forum will be looking for volunteers for the annual teacher appreciation luncheon (see below for details) and many other groups need your assistance as well. Several opportunities are listed below, as well as throughout the newsletter. May 2005 bring you and your families peace and happiness.

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

Wow! What a display of goodies we had for the Wednesday Holiday Treats for the Teachers last month. Thank you to the 150 volunteers who made our teachers and staff feel special— we so appreciate your willingness to help.

ANNUAL TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Monday, March 28

We will need volunteers to contribute entrées, side dishes, salads and desserts, as well as help with set up, clean-up and serving. This annual event is a big hit with the staff thanks to the special dishes parents are so willing to provide. Please call one of us to let us know what you can bring. Thank you!

PARENT FORUM MEETINGS

7:00 pm in the Commons (SHS)

- **Thursday, January 13** - A Parent to Parent Discussion about Drugs, Alcohol, and Teen Partyg. An important topic for all high school parents, please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
- **Thursday, February 10** - For Freshman and Sophomore Parents: Looking Ahead at College

PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE

7:45 am – check school office for location
Wednesday, January 12
Wednesday, March 16 (Conference Day)
Wednesday, April 13
Wednesday, May 11

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for parents to become involved with Shrewsbury High School. Please contact any Parent Forum member or the individual listed if you are able to spare some time.

- **Attendance Office** - help contact parents of students who are listed as absent and have not called into the school with a reason. Call Beverly at 841-8807
- **Staff Appreciation Activities** - planning and executing events in December and March for the SHS Staff. Call Lisa at 842-7133.
- **Baking for Events** - we need volunteers to make/buy “goodies” for open house and staff appreciation. Call Lisa at 842-7133.
- **Newsletter Collators** - meet one morning each month to fold, tape, and attach address labels to newsletters in preparation for bulk mailing. Call Nancy at 842-4557.
- **Clerical/Office Assistant** - sign up for a few hours weekly to help the office staff. Call Beverly at 841-8807.
- **Service Learning Activity Drivers** - help to transport students to various local service projects. Contact advisor Sarah Schmidt at sschmidt@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Remember to stay involved and volunteer. Your participation truly strengthens SHS. We are interested in hearing your ideas, concerns and comments. Thank you for your continued support.

Warmly,

Nancy Donahue	842-4557
Lisa Easson	842-7133
Angela Grip	842-9104
Joanne Hubbard	842-4895
Karin Hutt	842-2392
Penny McLaren	842-0143
Laurie Neumann	842-7718
Deborah Peeples	842-8693
Regina Pialtos	842-7818
Kathleen Thompson	842-1827
Marianne Upton	842-4175



Upcoming Calendar

	Dream Team Food Drive thru 1//23		
01/11	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
01/11	Jr. After Prom Party Mtg.	Com	07:15pm
01/11	Activities Fair	Com	11:30am
01/12	Principal's Coffee		07:45am
01/13	NHS	PR	02:00pm
01/13	Parent Forum	Com	07:00pm
01/15	Speech & Debate Tourn.	Away	08:00am
01/16	Speech & Debate Tourn.	Away	08:00am
01/17	MLK Day - NO SCHOOL		
01/18	Professional Development Day- NO SCHOOL		
01/19	School Committee Mtg.	TH	
07:00pm			
01/20	Exams - See Schedule - Full Day		
01/20	NHS	PR	02:00pm
01/21	Speech & Debate Tourn.	Away	
01/22	Speech & Debate Tourn.	Away	
01/21	Exams - See Schedule - 1/2 Day		
01/22	Sr Ex:Hypnosis Show	Aud	06:30pm
01/23	Speech & Debate Tourn.	Away	
01/24	Exams - See Schedule - 1/2 Day		
01/25	Exams - See Schedule - 1/2 Day		
01/25	Winter Jazz Concert	Aud	07:30pm
01/25	Speech & Debate	B300's	06:30pm
01/26	2nd Quarter - 1st Semester Ends		
01/25	Winter Jazz Concert-Snow	Aud	07:30pm
01/27	NHS	PR	02:00pm
01/28	Black History Dance	Com	07:00pm
01/29	Speech & Debate Tourn.	Away	08:00am

Please note that dates and times are subject to change.

Aud - Auditorium
Com - Commons
CR-Conf. Room
TD - Teacher's Dining Rm.

**A Word from your Newsletter Coordinator:**

The deadline for the February Issue of Colonial Update is **Monday, January 24, 2004**. To ensure your article is included, please submit your contribution on or before the due date. Email all articles for Colonial Update to shsupdate@aol.com in Word format. Attachments or articles on disk/CD may be dropped off in the Colonial Update mailbox in the SHS main office. If you have any questions, please email me prior to the due date at shsupdate@aol.com.

Thank you,

Jean Sullivan
Newsletter Coordinator
shsupdate@aol.com

**Colonial Update is ON-LINE!**

Visit the SHS website at:

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/SHS/index.asp

Click on the Students-Parents Link.

Colonial Update, both current and past issues, are in the Publications section. While attachments are not included, the newsletter itself is complete. If you have any questions or problems with the on-line version of Colonial Update, please email shsupdate@aol.com.

Shrewsbury High School Semester 1 Exam Schedule January 2005

Thursday, January 20: Day 1	Period 1 Exam	1:50 p.m. dismissal
Friday, January 21: Day 2	Period 2 & 3 Exams	10:50 a.m. dismissal
Monday, January 24, Day 3	Period 4 & 5 Exams	10:50 a.m. dismissal
Tuesday, January 25, Day 4	Period 6 & 7 Exams	10:50 a.m. dismissal